

Den Norske Fredsfilmprisen

The Norwegian Peace Film Award

The Norwegian Peace Film Award (NoFPA) is awarded by the Tromsø International Film Festival (TIFF), together with the Centre for Peace Studies (CPS) at the University of Tromsø, and the Student Network for Peace (SNF).

As is noted in the criteria for the *Norwegian Peace Film Award*, the prize is given to “a film spotlighting direct, structural or cultural violence, and which in a creative way contributes to the prevention or reduction of violence and war.”

We, the jury for the peace film prize - *Rashid Masharawi* a Palestinian filmmaker from Gaza (now living in Paris), *Silje Ryvold*, a Norwegian student at the University of Tromsø, and *Michael J. Shapiro* an American political scientist at the University of Hawaii, were able, despite our diverse territorial identities, vocations and perspectives, to reach a strong consensus. We are awarding the peace film award to Linda Hattendorf’s extraordinary documentary, “**The Cats of Mirikitani**”.

Apart from the fact of the film’s effectiveness both thematically and cinematically, the very process of filmmaking made an amazing difference in peoples lives. A person was healed and made whole again, and his relationship with lost relatives was restored. Hattendorf’s documentary project, which began as a result of some small sympathetic gestures ended up as an extended generosity with universal implications. Specifically, that generosity made present and palpable the details of a historical, structural as well as direct violence, associated with one of America’s wars. The film locates that violence in the context of a contemporary American war, and it is an exemplary demonstration of the healing power of art. The film uses cinematic art to disseminate another form of art, one that speaks powerfully to a historical form of violence that rarely achieves the presence it deserves. While creating relays between one war with another, the humanity the film expresses has universal resonance. It is our hope that the awarding of the peace film prize to *The Cats of Mirikitani* will result in the film’s wider dissemination, making its remarkable humanitarian sentiments contagious.